

Wymondham Urban District



THE

Annual Report

for the Year
1938

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

THE ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year 1938

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the

WYMONDHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council,

I have the honour of presenting my report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Wymondham Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

1—GENERAL

The Urban District has an area of 10,950 acres, with a rateable value of £17,772, a 1d. rate realizes £73. Apart from the brush making industry the district remains chiefly agricultural.

The Population (resident) at the middle of the year is estimated at 5,121.

The number of Council houses in occupation on the 31st December, 1938,—229.

2—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

These remain as before with the exception that with the opening during the summer of the County Isolation Hospital at East Dereham, Infectious Diseases are now sent there.

3—VITAL STATISTICS

				M	F	TOTAL
Live Births	...	...	...	42	46	88
Legitimate	...	...	...	41	46	87
Illegitimate		...	...	1	—	1
Still Births	...	...	...	2	1	3
Legitimate	...	...	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—

The Live Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population is 17·18.

The Still Birth rated (estimated per 1,000 of live and still births) 32·3 or 0·58 per 1,000 of the population.

These rates compare respectively with those in England and Wales, viz. 15·1 and 0·60.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES number 53, registered as under :

	M	F	TOTAL
	26	27	53
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	1	3
Cancer	7	6	13
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	2	2	4
Heart Disease	5	8	13
Other Circulatory Diseases...	1	2	3
Bronchitis	—	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Peptic Ulcer... ..	1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases ...	1	1	2
Nephritis	—	1	1
Congenital Debility			
Premature Births ...	2	1	3
Suicide	1	—	1
Other Violence	1	2	3
Other defined Diseases ...	2	—	2

The death rate per 1,000 of the population works out at 10·34 as compared with 11·6 in England and Wales. Making the adjustment for the sex and age composition of the population the *crude rate of 10·34 becomes a comparable rate of 8·68.*

No death is recorded from a Puerperal cause or following Childbirth or from Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or from Diarrhœa (under two years of age).

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Three deaths under one year, two male and one female, all legitimate, and all three from congenital causes, gives a mortality rate per 1,000 of live births of 34, that in England and Wales being 53.

4 —TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases on the register on the 31st December, 1938, was 39, a decrease of fifteen during the year, as there were seven new cases and only three deaths, this means that at a recent revision of the register no less than nineteen cases have been certified as having recovered, or removed from the district or lost sight of.

New cases and mortality during 1938.

Age Periods	New cases, 7.		Deaths, 3.			
	Respiratory M	F	Non- Respiratory M	F	Respiratory M	F
0						
1						
5			2			
15		3				1
25	1					
35					2	
45	1					
55						
65 and upwards						
Totals	2	3	2		2	1

5--NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(other than Tuberculosis). Total 24 cases as follows.
Scarlet Fever, 12; Diphtheria, 6; Pneumonia, 2;
Puerperal Pyrexia, 1; Erysipelas, 3.

There were no deaths. The six cases of diphtheria were in one family, occupying one house.

6--MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The monthly Clinics continue to be well attended. During May, Hethersett mothers ceased to come, as a Clinic was opened there, for them. Figures for the year--on the register 61 cases, and total attendances :

Mothers	Children under 1 year	Children 1--5 years	New Cases	Total Children
265	124	267	33	391

This gives an average monthly attendance of 32.4 which with 33 new cases, may be considered fairly satisfactory.

7--HOUSING CONDITIONS

For details see Mr. Maughan's report following this. It has to be noted that in addition to the eight houses provided by the Council during the year, another eighteen are about to be erected at the present time under the last Housing Act. During the year seven cases of overcrowding were abated, leaving twenty-one to be dealt with. No cases of overcrowding in Council Houses occurred.

8—THE WATER SUPPLY

See Mr. Maughan's report. Mr. Platten, the Water Engineer reports as follows :

	Water Pumped and Softened	Lime used	Alumina
January	2,495,000 gallons	7,378 lbs.	228 lbs.
February	2,015,000 "	6,136 "	78 "
March	2,170,000 "	6,398 "	198 "
April	2,695,000 "	7,908 "	234 "
May	2,275,000 "	6,558 "	178 "
June	2,425,000 "	7,056 "	180 "
July	2,994,000 "	8,320 "	234 "
August	2,460,000 "	7,406 "	192 "
September	2,170,000 "	6,696 "	182 "
October	2,705,000 "	8,134 "	234 "
November	2,140,000 "	6,414 "	186 "
December	3,455,000 "	12,141 "	241 "
	<hr/> 29,999,000 gallons	<hr/> 90,545 lbs.	<hr/> 2,365 lbs.

(40 tons. 8cwts. 49lbs.) (21cwts. 13lbs.)

CONNECTIONS :

	From Main to Stop-cock.			From Stop-cock to Premises.		
January	8	...	...	6
February	1	...	...	2
March	1	...	...	5
April	1	...	...	8
May	1	Meters Installed		16
June	2	...	...	18
July	2	...	...	6
August	3	2	...	9
September	1	...	...	3
October	1	...	...	31
November	2	...	...	9
December	—	—
			<hr/> 23			<hr/> 113

The Parish of Hingham consumed 2,710,000 gallons from 1st January, 1938 to 31st December, 1938.

Average daily consumption in Wymondham, 74,764 gallons.

Consumption through Meter, 1938	8,720,761 gallons
1937	8,013,932 "
	<hr/>
Increase	706,729 gallons

Number of Consumers :

Meters ...	...	25		
Special Arrangement		13		
Building Supplies		9		
Domestic, etc.,			31/12/38	913
	31/12/38	866	31/12/37	800
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		913		113
		<hr/>		<hr/>

Signed, H. G. PLATTEN.

9—DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE & SCAVENGING

See Mr. Maughan's report.

10—SWIMMING BATHS

Continue to supply a steady demand. The proprietor keeps them in a satisfactory and sanitary condition.

11—MILK IN THE SCHOOLS & THE PHYSICAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN

Both these associated matters continued to occupy the attention of the Council. The Milk Act recently introduced by the Government, was withdrawn owing to the concerted opposition of the trade and we now await an amended Act in the hope that the Consumer will have the benefit of a pure and wholesome supply at a price within the reach of all. With the opening of the new Central School, a fine gymnasium with ample playing fields, will fill a long felt want in the training of the youth in the town. The delay in acquiring another Recreation Ground owing to the proposed Trunk Road passing through the site of the original one in Browick Road, will I understand be over soon.

12—SUMMARY

1938 was a healthy year, the Birth rate having risen from 15·7 to 17·18, and the Death rate fallen from 11·0 to 10·34 as compared with 1937. I should like to see a rise in the population recorded. The provision of more houses for those who come into the town to the Brush Factories and other work places is indicated. In spite of the pre-occupation of the Nation with National Defence Measures and A.R.P., the essential Services have been well maintained.

In conclusion, I have again to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the whole Council and Officials for personal help rendered to me during the year.

ALEX P. AGNEW, M.B., C.M.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To the Chairman and Members of the Wymondham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my fourth annual report as Sanitary Inspector, for the year ending December 31st, 1938, relating to the sanitary circumstances of the area.

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

Each of the sixteen registered factories and workshops within the district have been inspected during the year; the conditions in which were generally satisfactory. The legislation affecting the Council's control of such premises has been amended by the Factories' Act, 1937. Certificates relating to sufficiency of means of escape from fire are now issuable by the Council.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No cases of public nuisances arising from the emission of smoke have been reported during the year.

SHOP ACTS

As in previous years, the administration of Section 10, (3), (4) and (5) of the Shops' Act of 1934 is dealt with by the District Council as the local authority for the purposes of those sub-sections. During the year thirteen premises affected by these provisions were examined, and with one or two minor exceptions, all were found to be satisfactory.

HOUSING

During the year covered by this report the Council provided eight houses, and seven houses were provided by private enterprise. At the end of the year the number of houses owned by the Council was 229.

Housing Return

I	Total number of dwelling houses inspected under the Public Health and the Housing Acts	...	107
	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	107
	Number of dwelling houses (included under the above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations,		
	1925	... ..	107

Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	107
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	31
Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to in the above), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	7
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	22

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936 :

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	29
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of informal notices :	
by the owners	29
by the local authority	Nil

Proceedings under the Public Health Act

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of informal notice :	
by the owners	8
by the local authority	Nil

Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	3
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pur- suance of demolition orders	1
Demolition by informal notice	Nil

Proceedings under Section 20, Housing Act, 1936

Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	Nil
Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit	Nil

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Number of houses			
Found to be infected		Disinfected	
Council houses	Other houses	Council houses	Other houses
None	None	None	None

Where requisite, bug disinfection is carried out by means of formaldehyde and sulphur, the work being carried out by the local authority.

Closet Accommodation

The number of houses within the district with a water carriage system of drainage is 880. Of those not so fitted, the majority are situate outside the area served by the main drainage system. During the year 39 premises were converted from the conservancy to the water carriage system. At the end of the year the numbers of each type were water closets, 880; conservancy, 715.

TOWN PLANNING

The draft Town Planning scheme covering the Urban District was adopted by the Town Planning Committee in July, 1938, copies of which were subsequently exhibited in the Council's offices for public inspection. When the objections to the scheme have been dealt with, the scheme will be forwarded to the Ministry of Health for approval.

WATER SUPPLY

The piped supply of softened water continues to be increasingly used; no complaints as to shortage, or as to the quality, having been received during the year. The majority of new buildings erected during the year were situated within the piped supply area. In these cases the piped supply is invariably made use of. Under the existing arrangements the water is subject to analysis, bacteriologically once, and chemically four times, a year. The results of these examinations are that the analyst reports the water to be of excellent quality for drinking and domestic purposes. The Parish of Hingham continues to be supplied with water in bulk form from the Council's works. The total average daily consumption, including Hingham, has increased from 75,213 gallons in 1937, to 81,074 gallons in 1938.

Extended Water Supplies

During the year an extension of a water main, twenty yards in length, and necessitated by the erection of Council Houses at Silfield, was made.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The main drainage system, including the outfall works, continues to work satisfactorily. Local defects which occur from time to time, are generally incidental to the working of the system, and these are remedied without delay as they arise. During the year additional premises were connected to sewers, including newly erected buildings. In order that a number of new Council houses be properly drained, a sewer in Silfield Avenue was extended for about twenty yards. As a result of a breaking down of certain of the filtrate at the disposal works, one filter was placed out of commission for a time to allow of the media being re-graded, and renewed where necessary. An analysed sample of the final effluent, taken before the above filter had regained its former efficiency, was reported as poor. A second sample was taken at a later date, the analyst reporting upon it as a great improvement compared with the previous sample. No complaints of offensive odours from the works have been received during the year. The addition of alumino-ferric to the crude sewage as a precipitating agent for the comparatively large volume of soapy wastes received at the works, is effective, and its use continued.

RIVERS POLLUTION

During the year covered by this report, no complaints as to the pollution of rivers or streams were received, and the Council had no occasion to invoke measures of pollution abatement.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The removal of domestic refuse from the majority of the dwelling houses within the district is carried out weekly, by contract, the collected matters being dumped and properly covered with a view to land reclamation, on a site near to the London Road. This service is carried out in a satisfactory manner; complaints of non-collection, etc., having been very few. No complaints as to the usage of the land where the material is finally disposed of have been received.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no swimming baths or pools within the Urban District owned by the Council. A privately owned, enclosed swimming bath, with a water capacity of about 5,000 cubic feet, situated near the centre of the town, is much used. The water, taken from the public supply, is filtered through small shingle and steam heated before re-use. In addition to the concrete swimming pool, a number of shower and slipper baths are provided for the use of men and women.

DISINFECTION

Following cases of infectious disease, eight dwellings were disinfected during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year a large number of inspections of food-stuffs were made, details of procedure under the Public Health Meat regulations being shown in the following table :—

Carcases inspected and condemned :

	Cattle, excluding			Sheep &	
	Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected	10	38	6	64	75
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	—	1	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	3	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuber- culosis	10%	11%	—	2%	11%
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole Carcase condemned	—	2	—	3	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	8%	—	5%	7%

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

The whole of the dairies and cowsheds in the district have been periodically inspected during the year. From the great majority of these, licenses have been issued for the production of grade A milk, and the premises are well maintained. During the year structural alterations were made at six premises.

MILK, SPECIAL DESIGNATION ORDERS, 1936

The collection of milk samples in the district under the above Orders is delegated to the District Council. Seventy-four such samples were collected during the year, of which five failed to pass the first laboratory test.

BAKE-HOUSES AND SLAUGHTER HOUSES

The bake-houses and slaughter houses in the district are periodically inspected, and except for occasional minor alterations, the premises are maintained in a reasonably good structural and sanitary condition.

CAMPING SITES

During the year one camping site was licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936, S.269, and during the same period one camping site was used. During the summer months the estimated number of campers in the district at one time was sixteen.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, &c.

Number of inspections of dwellings	...	...	107
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	8
Number of informal notices served	...	...	27
Houses provided with new drainage and connected to sewers	...	...	39
Public buildings provided with new drainage and connected to sewers	...	...	Nil
Houses provided with new drainage and cesspools			1
Defective vault closets abolished	...	...	1
E.C.'s converted to W.C.'s	...	...	33
House drainage nuisances remedied	...	...	5
Refuse accumulations	...	...	1
Animals improperly kept	...	...	2
Cleansing of ditches	...	...	7

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Council, the Clerk and the Medical Officer of Health for their valuable and ready support at all times.

Yours obediently,

ROBT. W. MAUGHAN,

M.R.S.I., M.INST.S.E.